

THE PACIFIC
COMMERCIAL ADVERTISER.

Tuesday, December 23, 1884.

OUR RICE TRADE.

The general results of the Reciprocity Treaty in the increase of American commerce with these Islands have often been exposed both by Honolulu journals and by those of San Francisco—more especially by the San Francisco *Merchant*. Every detail, however, which can be added to this showing is of interest, and may be of value. We have, therefore, pleasure in publishing below a table compiled by Mr. E. Lindemann, of Kauai, showing the range of prices for rice in the San Francisco market before and after the treaty came into operation. To this table some explanatory notes are added by Mr. Lindemann, which we also print. Together, these demonstrate very clearly that whatever the advantage to those Islands our increased production of rice, fostered by the treaty, has been a distinct boon to America. Although it may be said that a large quantity of our rice is consumed by Chinese in San Francisco, it yet remains true every one of the million and a half of the population of the Pacific slope has had one of the commodities most universally used for food cheapened in price. Though the number of Chinese in Oregon, California, Nevada, and Washington Territory is undoubtedly considerable, it bears but a very small proportion to their total population. The benefit here, as in other departments, of our commercial intercourse with America under the treaty has been enhanced by the profits accruing to citizens from the carriage insurance, commissions on sale, etc., for which our rice crop pays tribute to them.

FOR HAWAIIAN RICE.

	C
1870	7.50
1871	8.00
1872	8.50
1873	7.50
1874	7.70
1875	7.50
1876	7.50
1877	7.50
1878	7.50
1879	7.50
1880	7.50
1881	7.50
1882	7.50
1883	7.50

FOR CHINA RICE.

	C
1870	6.50
1871	6.50
1872	6.50
1873	6.50
1874	6.50
1875	6.50
1876	6.50
1877	6.50
1878	6.50
1879	6.50
1880	6.50
1881	6.50
1882	6.50
1883	6.50

COMPARATIVE PRICES.

	Higher.	Lower.
1870	1.06	
1871	1.30	
1872	1.97	
1873	1.00	
1874	1.42	
1875	1.25	
1876	1.30	
1877		0.47
1878		0.21
1879	0.48	
1880	0.12	
1881		0.52
1882		0.39
1883		0.56

Average difference for seven years plus 1.34 before treaty; for last three years minus 0.49 equals 1.83.

Average price of Hawaiian rice for seven years before treaty, 8.02.

Average price of Hawaiian rice for seven years after treaty, 5.70.

Average price of rice during the last three years 5.18, or 2.84 less than before treaty.

NOTES.

The rice has been cheaper during the treaty \$2.32, but during the last three years \$2.84 per hundredweight. The latter comparison is the more correct one, as only now the full effect of the increased production in consequence of the treaty is manifested. Well, then, it is clear that the United States have made an excellent business. Before the treaty nearly all the rice was shipped as "paddy," and paid 1½ cents duty per lb.; but as 4 lbs. of paddy make 3 lbs. of rice, the duty per pound of rice amounted to 2 cents. This, after the treaty went into effect, the United States Treasury lost; but the consumers of Hawaiian rice in the United States bought it \$2.32, and during the last three years \$2.84 per hundredweight cheaper than before the treaty; to the United States, as a whole, there was a clear gain of 0.32 cents and 0.84 cents respectively per hundredweight of rice.

If the Hawaiian rice-planters are not benefited by the treaty, wherefore do they then care for the prolongation of it? They receive nothing more for their rice now than before the treaty—yet they are benefited. Should the duty be put upon the Hawaiian rice again the price would not go up immediately,

but only after all the plantations had been bankrupted, and one-half of them left uncultivated; then the diminished production would command the old price again. A steady, if low-priced, market for all they can produce is all the benefit the rice-planters receive.

But it is not quite right to compare the price of Hawaiian rice before the treaty with the price of Hawaiian rice after the treaty. The price of all rice is lower now than it was before. China rice is not quite as good as Hawaiian rice; but the Chinese being accustomed to it prefer it, and do not buy Hawaiian rice unless it is cheaper. The greater cheapness of Hawaiian rice has also depressed the price of China rice in the San Francisco market. How much I could only ascertain if I had also at my disposition the prices of China rice of some other market. By the table we find that for seven years before the treaty the Hawaiian rice averaged \$1.34 higher, and for the last three years 0.49 cents lower than China rice. This difference of \$1.83 in favor of the consumers of Hawaiian rice is clearly and wholly the effect of the treaty. As 2 cents duty has been released there is a difference in favor of Hawaiian planter of 0.17 cents per hundredweight. This apparent loss is more than made up by the profit the United States make in carrying our rice to market and milling it, and by the profit of the trade induced, and only made possible by the existence of the increased rice production at the Hawaiian Islands. Even this most unfavorable comparison, which neglects the lowering of the price of China rice in the San Francisco market, shows that the United States have been financially the gainers through the treaty, so far as rice is concerned.

CURRENCY.

On this subject we heartily endorse the article which appeared in last evening's *Daily Bulletin*, which, to use a colloquialism, has "taken the words out of our mouth." We were much surprised to hear that a proposition to put a value of 80 cents on the silver dollar had been ready for presentation to the Chamber of Commerce at its meeting on Saturday last. Knowing the men who compose that body we venture to express the belief that a majority of them could not have been induced to countenance such an attempt to blackmail the shopkeepers, into whose hands our surplus silver currency has been drifting.

Whatever steps the Government may have in contemplation to withdraw from the hands of the populace the excess of silver coin will, we hope, be taken quickly. The suspense and apprehension in which that section of the community which is least able to bear it is being kept is injurious to business, painful in itself and the cause of much oburgation. The time is one of actual emergency. It was impossible suddenly to change from a silver currency to one of gold without a certain amount of trouble. The timidity of the Bank, which is afraid to take in from its customers even as much silver as it ought to have on hand to meet the average requirements of those who do business with it, and the malignity of such harpies as those who were wanting to persuade the members of the Chamber of Commerce to put a value of eighty cents on the silver dollar have aggravated the friction of this important change in our customs. With the Government rests the task of putting things straight, else the harpies just alluded to will manage to gobble up some good profits.

MONTHLY PAYMENTS.

The plan of having monthly instead of quarterly settlements of accounts is one that is quietly growing in favor in Honolulu with good results. For a long time small dealers have insisted upon the enforcement of the "thirty day" rule, and now the larger firms are wheeling into line.

As a rule those who present their bills at the end of each month find but little difficulty in effecting a prompt settlement, but there are still some who growl at the "trouble" it gives to pay out what are, to them, small sums, but which very often are important to the creditor.

It is taken for granted, too, that the system of short credits enable the seller to place a less price on his goods than he can if he has to add ninety days' interest to the cost, and though there is, in fact, but little difference now between the long and short term prices, yet this will follow the nearer we come to "cash" transactions.

Quite a number of establishments in Honolulu settle with their em-

ployees weekly, and it is really the cash they disburse, together with the amount—say \$30,000—paid as salaries by the Government each month, that make the bulk of the money received by the retail dealers, who are the ones most directly interested in the prompt and frequent settlements of their bills.

Those concerns that pay their employees weekly will necessarily be much relieved by a general change from quarterly to monthly settlements, and the whole community will be better off the nearer it approaches to the financial millennium of cash payments.

THE DIES.

The *Hawaiian*, by implication, asks this journal to tell where the dies are from which the Hawaiian coinage was struck. Perhaps the editor of that sheet would like to know where the crown jewels are, or who keeps the keys of Aliiolani Hale. The object of the article is so plainly the making of malignant insinuations against Mr. Gibson and Colonel Spreckels, we decline to allow this paper to be the medium for any reply to so malicious a question.

CORRESPONDENCE.

We do not hold ourselves responsible for the statements made, or opinions expressed by our correspondents.

HANA, Dec. 17, 1884.

MR. EDITOR—Sir: Your correspondent at Hana, calling himself Hoaloa, presents under date of 4th inst. what he calls a statement of facts in relation to what occurred here on the 4th inst. As there is always two sides to a story, you will please allow me to reply in your paper to Mr. Hoaloa, in order that the deficiencies in his letter may become clearer.

Commencing at the commencement, I would inform you that at Mokae, Hana, there is a tract of land called the Ainahui, granted originally to eight natives. For a number of years I have held partly by lease, partly by purchase, a little more than one-half of said land. The remainder of the land is held by Mr. Hanuna for the benefit of the Mokae Sugar Company. Since 1878 about 20 or 25 acres of the best plough land was taken possession of by said Hanuna, whereas I had only about four acres under cultivation. As it became clear to me in 1883 that it would be impossible for me to get a fair share of the land for cultivation without a division according to law, I wrote in August, 1883, to Mr. Hanuna, protesting against his further breaking up new land; and on the 20th August, 1883, I petitioned to the Honorable A. Fornander for a division of the hui land, having previously got consent thereto from the lessors. Through advertisements the owners of said land were notified to meet at Hana, by the Honorable Judge Fornander, on the 31st October, 1883. All parties interested were there represented, and nemine contradicente Judge Fornander proposed that Mr. Hanuna, President of Mokae Sugar Company, choose one commissioner to divide that ainahui, that I should choose another commissioner, whereupon the Judge appointed the third commissioner. This being done, the Honorable Judge instructed all parties interested in the land division not to plant on any new land on the ainahui, until they knew from the decision of the Court whether such new land would belong to them or not. It would seem natural to expect that reasonable and fair-minded people would comply with such a plain and straightforward request, and that Mr. Hanuna, especially, would do so, as he for a number of years has had the lion's share of the best land to cultivate there. But Mr. Hanuna did not think proper to follow the Judge's advice. During November and December following Hanuna and Cummings had a new piece of hui land planted, and part of this, with about one and one-half acres of cane on it, fell to my share on the final division. The judgment confirming and approving the report and division of the commissioners was rendered in Court at Hana on the 14th April, 1884. If then Mr. Hanuna had any claim to make or restoration regarding the cane planted on my land, why did he not make such claim then and there? He knew well the land that had fallen to my share; he knew that the land had been planted by his men under direction of Mr. W. H. Cummings pendente lite at a time that he had no right to plant the cane. Both Hanuna and Cummings went into this planting with their eyes open. Your correspondent, Hoaloa, says that Cummings had the right to take off the cane which he had planted. I do not see where he got that right from. He might say, by and by, that he had a right to take off the rattoons also.

If now any one of my friends should say to me that I wouldn't lose much if I had given up that cane, I will simply state what occurred here a short time ago. On a part of the kuleana, where Mr. Cummings lives,

I have for years past planted about one-half acre with cane, by permission of a native, to whom I paid annually \$2 for taxes on the land, but it so happened that said native was not the owner of the land. Mr. Cummings goes to Hawaii and leases or buys the kuleana from the proper owners. On his return he tells me "that he will not bother me about my cane on the land." So I had it stripped, expecting to grind it with my other cane close by; but, behold, one fine day Mr. Cummings had the cane cut and carted to his mill without saying a word to me about it. In dealing with such men I prefer to give them all what they can claim, but *prætere nihil*.

Now, as regards the riot at Hana on December 4th, I copy below the report given by my assistant manager, Mr. Toomey, who was present on that occasion:

REPORT.

About 25 November I offered Cummings the cane if he would furnish plants. He was willing, but said: "If you cut the cane Hanuna will sue you." Wednesday, Dec. 3d, two men went up to cut a lane through the Mokae cane. Hanuna came and stopped them, telling them that they had no business there. The two men came and told me so. Mr. Bille and I went up there in the afternoon, passed by Hanuna's house, and started cutting on the line without interruption from anybody. Thursday, Dec. 4th, Seat a native luna and five men up to cut the Mokae cane for seed. A Portuguese crowd and two lunas from Reciprocity Sugar Company came up, surrounded my men, and one of the lunas fired off a revolver to scare my people away; 10 A.M. I came out there and all hands were cutting—my people and their people. I sent for six mule carts and six bullock carts, and 17 men to cut the cane up for plants. I asked Joe Cummings what he was doing here on our land. He said he was cutting the cane belonging to Reciprocity Sugar Co. on land belonging to them. Told him that the land did not belong to them, and further told him that he had better take his men home. Told him also that he knew very well that the land was allotted to Mr. Unna by the division of the Commissioners and the Courts. Showed the two overseers the boundary line; told Cummings to go down and ask his brother to come up so that he and I could settle the matter. He said he was instructed by Hanuna to cut the cane. He took his men (about 40) away and went makai. When they went off my mule carts arrived; the bullock carts I arranged on the road so as to block it. The place where the road is belongs to us. I then saw about 100 or 120 men coming from the Reciprocity Plantation with about 30 carts. Everybody from the engineer to the firemen, the clerk in the store, the blacksmith and Portuguese boys turned out. The same men that at first had been cutting cane came and joined in the crowd with cane knives and hoes. Generals Hanuna and Kakani of the cavalry force, and Road Supervisor Kawaiku, Colonel of the infantry were there. I asked Hanuna where he was going; he answered that he was going to cart the cane away. I told him that I and Cummings settled that thing the week before; but he still insisted to cross the road that did not belong to them and cart the cane away. I stopped them in a narrow place about 20 feet wide, and said that if they insisted on going up they would have to drive over me. Colonel Kawaiku, a Government official, began to excite the natives with words as "Drive ahead, boys; drive over that damned haole. Hit him with the whips, etc." Their point was to get up a general fight, and they allowed later that they came there for a fight if they could not get the cane. Kawaiku and Hanuna said, "Now is the time for haunale." Then comes Quartermaster-General McCrosson (Engineer of the Reciprocity Sugar Co.) at the head of a small detachment of mule carts, singing out, "Drive ahead; drive over him." He tried to pass me, and I stopped him and asked him where he was going. He said, "he was going to cart that cane, by God." I told him that they were trespassing on land that did not belong to them, and that they had other roads to get to their cane than going over our land. I asked him if he did not feel ashamed of himself as a white man, to mix himself up in such a crowd and come there to kill one man. He said they did not come to kill anybody, but to take the cane. I told him it looked very much like coming to kill when 100 men came with cane knives, hoes and other implements, and he (McCrosson), Hanuna, Kawaiku, and lunas exciting the men to drive over me. I further told them that if they wanted the cane they would have to sue for it. In the meantime the carts tried to get up; but I drove the leaders down so that their own carts blocked the road. They made the answer that they were ready to fight any time the Hana Plantation gang was willing. I told them we were not going to fight. I was alone, standing on the road, trying to reason with them, and my men were up in the field, and I, when I saw the crowd come, went down to the road to meet them. Then comes Mr. W. H. Cummings, and he excited the men to drive over me, and I asked him if we two had not settled this matter before; but he did not answer, and seeing that his carts did not follow him, he went back. I cried to him that we

too could settle the matter without further bother. I told him again that if he would give me seed enough to plant a 10-acre piece he could take the cane, which he agreed to. I asked him for his writing to that effect; he asked me if his word wasn't good for it, and I said "No." McCrosson said he would be witness, but I told him that he had no business at all about this cane; that the only way to settle this was to take a business view of it, and that if he wanted to give me seed and keep the cane he would have to give his writing for it. Then we went home to Mr. Cummings's house, and he gave me his written agreement to let the Hana Plantation have, free of charge, seed enough to plant their field at Mokae. Our carts and men left the field. I made their men understand that they were doing wrong, and it was only because they were afraid of the law that they did not obey the order of their leaders "to drive over me."

(Signed)

D. TOOMEY.

P. S.—When your correspondent, Hoaloa, offers to give a statement of facts, it would look better if he did so over his own signature, rather than to hide himself under a nom de plume. There are several facts that Hoaloa has omitted:

First: To state that Cummings, with his crowd, came on my land, not only as trespasser, but also as rioters. Second: That the Cummings crowd did not find opposition from 100 men, but only from one cool and determined white man, Mr. Toomey, our assistant manager, who stood his ground to the last without budging, and with only bullock carts at his back to block the road. Third: That Mr. William Cummings in signing the agreement to furnish us plants free of expense did only what we demanded on November 25th or thereabouts; but that he in so doing decidedly showed the white feather.

The manager of the Reciprocity Sugar Company, his lunas and followers are welcome to all the credit they can get out of this disgraceful affair. The anxiously awaiting stockholders in the Reciprocity Sugar Company would no doubt be more benefited had Mr. W. Cummings and his crowd stayed at home and kept their mill going, instead of engaging in a criminal attack upon their neighbors.

Respectfully Yours,

A. UNNA.

Another Second Thought.

MR. EDITOR—Dear Sir: The articles in the *Guide*, more particularly the one of Dec. 11th, appear to me to be nothing more than the worst kind of exaggerations, and hardly worth noticing, but that the Blue Ribbon parties may know in how little esteem they stand before the world let them read the following from the London *Times*: "Wearers of the blue ribbon," it says, "are in the main persons of inferior physical development; and, if we may judge by their facial expressions, are not remarkable for intellectual power. Our civilization produces an abundant undergrowth of feeble bodies and lop-sided minds, people whose individual significance becomes less oppressive to them when they fancy themselves members of a great organization. Their vanity is flattered by the idea that they can set an example of superiority to others. These are the people who become anti-vaccinators, anti-vivisectionists, or teetotalers, or all three. As a rule, they are persons who do not require alcohol, sometimes because a strong digestion enables them to take up sufficient nutriment in other forms, and sometimes because their capacity for exerting force is so limited that they are compelled to be careful in consuming the materials by which it is supplied."

Ponder on the above, poor, weak-minded dudes, and remember that it was to those of well-balanced minds, but weak stomachs, that St. Paul advised to take a little wine for the stomach's sake.

AMERICAN VOTER.

An Explanation and Apology.

This office owes the *Bulletin* an apology, and it is going to pay it if it takes all one side of this DAILY. The puzzle sharp (who is retained by the ADVERTISER management at an awful expense to solve this sort of thing) was sticking type at the time the *Bulletin* was handed to him, with the remark that answers were expected in five minutes. Without interrupting the steady stream of type flowing from his case into his stick he yelled out the solutions faster than they could be written down.

Innocently enough, the city editor hung the solutions on the local hook, and, without any thought of its being "premature," the foreman lifted them into the form, leaving the pressman to get it on the press, which he did without reflecting that the publication might be "premature," and the small army of carriers ("premature" youths) that Mellis employs laid the solution before a waiting public. The explanation being given, the apology follows. Consider it made, oh *Bulletin* (it is to be hoped was "prematurely") and, under the circumstances, consider it ample. Give us something easy.